

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1822

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO

SUBJ: SRC MEMBER NAMED NEW SECRETARY OF POLITICAL OFFICE OF
PRESIDENCY

REF: MOGADISCIO 0497

1. GSDR ANNOUNVAD APR 24 THAT LT. COL. ABDULQADIR HAJI MOHAMED, SRC MEMBER AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COURT HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS NEW SECRETARY OF THE POLITICAL OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY (PO).

2. POLITICAL OFFICE IS KEY ARM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH CONTROLS IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION, YOUTH AND "VICTORY PIONEERS", COORDINATES SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, AND WHICH LOCAL LEFTISTS ENVISAGE WILL FORM THE NUCLEUS OF A MARXIST NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY (REFTEL). PO PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN HEADED BY ACTIVE, ITALIAN-COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED, YOWJG, RECENTLY-PROMOTED MAJOR MOHAMED OMAR. LATTER'S FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN, BUT IT RUMORED HE MAY BE GIVEN ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE POSITION (POSSIBLY LONG-VACANT POSITION OF MAYOR OF MOGADISCIO).

3. ASSIGNING SRC MEMBER TO HEAD PO REPRESENTS UPGRADING OF
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THAT OFFICE. AT SAME TIME, PROBABLY MEANS CLOSER SUPERVISION

OF OFFICE'S ACTIVITIES BY SIAD AND HIS SRC INNER CIRCLE.

4. TRIBAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY ALSO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN ABDULQADIR'S SELECTION. HE IS ONE OF THREE SRC MEMBERS FROM PRESIDENT SIAD'S OWN TRIBE, DAROT/MAREHAN. ACCORDING TO SOME LOCAL REPORTS, SIAD WANTED FELLOW TRIBESMAN TO HEAD THIS OFFICE.

5. ANOTHER INTERESTING ASPECT IS FACT ABDULQADIR CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH ARAB GROUP AND HAS BEEN USED AS LEADER OF SOMALI DELEGATIONS TO VISITING ARAB COUNTRIES. ANTI-COMMUNIST ARABS MAY WELL SEE HIS APPOINTMENT AS DOWNGRADING OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM IDEOLOGY PREVIOUSLY PUSHED BY POLITICAL OFFICE. COMMENT: WE WOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN CONCLUDING THERE WILL BE MAJOR CHANGE IN IDEOLOGICAL BENT OF POLITICAL OFFICE. HOWEVER, ABDULQADIR APPOINTMENT WOULD SEEM SIGNIFY ONE MORE STEP TOWARD CONSOLIDATION OF PO ROLE AS ARM OF SRC AND SIAD PERSONALLY RATHER THAN EMBRYO OF NEW, CIVILIAN POLITICAL PARTY.
KIRK

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